

KJCK Spotlight
Thursday, May 17, 2007

Good morning, I'm Jared Beckman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger with the Milford Lake Update.

The weather is finally starting to cooperate with us and camping season is in full swing. Old man winter has gone to bed and spring is here. The trees are green, the birds are chirping, and the fish are biting!

Ah yes fishing, fun for the entire family! Fishing is a great way to enjoy a weekend at the lake and this time of year you are guaranteed excitement. Here is a little information that might help you get started. The walleye have really come on strong the past couple of weeks drifting the mud flats in 8-12 ft. of water and casting shallow points with crankbaits. White bass and wiper are fair at the upper end of the lake with jigs. Smallmouth and largemouth have been spawning on the gravel banks and are being caught with jigs and jerkbaits. Crappie is being caught in 3-8 ft. of water along brush piles, timber, and steep rock banks using jigs. And channel cat is being caught using shad sides in the river and on windy flats.

With the warmer temperatures here there are some safety precautions you need to know when going on your fishing trip. Remember to bring cold water with you to prevent dehydration and heat stroke. Sunscreen is a necessity beginning this time of year and throughout the rest of summer to protect you from the sun's harmful UV rays. A bad sunburn can ruin a wonderful day at the lake. Insect repellent is also a great item to have with you to keep those pesky mosquitoes away so you can enjoy catching fish and not swatting bugs. A first aid kit is essential to have with you when at the lake for everything from bumps and bruises to scrapes and burns.

With Memorial Weekend fast approaching its time to get the camping equipment out and prepare for the camping season to begin. For many of you Memorial Weekend is the first time you will have your camper out this year and there are a few safety tips you should follow to make your weekend less stressful and more enjoyable. First off you need to do some spring cleaning, remove all protective covers and wash the exterior, air out the inside, and remove any pest control devices you may have used over the winter. Inspect the exterior for damage to the roof, and also the seals around doors and windows for leaks. Lubricate any moving parts like locks, hinges, and latches. Flush out the water system to clean out the nontoxic antifreeze used to winter your RV. Flushing several times will help remove the chlorine taste in the water. Don't forget about the tires, the last thing you want to be doing is changing a tire on the side of the highway to start off your camping trip. Check tire pressure, tread depth, and for cracking in the sidewalls. Replace any damaged or worn tires immediately and don't forget about the spare!

I hope to see you all out at the lake this summer, and by following these safety guidelines your summer will be safer and more enjoyable for the entire family.

And please remember...Mother Nature bats last so watch the weather reports daily for changes in the weather on your weekend at the lake. Your safety with Mother Nature is our concern. That's the Milford Lake Update.